

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication network, comprising:
- at least one instance of a first object type associated with a first product of the communication network;
- at least one instance of a second object type associated with a second product of the communication network;
- first local means for configuring each instance of the first object type;
- second local means for configuring each instance of the second object type;
- a network management server comprising a product specific coordinator including means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the first object type via the first local means and means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the second object type via the second local means and further comprising a network coordinator adapted for configuring each instance of a network object comprising a first component associated with the first object type and a second component associated with the second object type; and
- a network management client including a graphical user interface adapted for enabling a user to invoke the network management server.

2. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the first object type comprises a phone mail object and the first local means comprises a phone mail server process.

3. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the second object type comprises a PBX object and the second local means comprises a PBX server process.

4. The communication network of claim 1, further comprising a CORBA compliant interface between the product specific coordinator and the first local means.

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A-1  
PBX  
communication

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PBX  
"Control"

voice  
mail  
box  
PBX  
extension

voice  
mail  
service  
VMS

voice  
mail  
"Control"

- 1 5. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the network  
2 coordinator includes means for accessing network object data from a  
3 directory server.
- 1 6. The communication network of claim 5, wherein the directory server is  
2 LDAP compliant.
- 3 7. The communication network of claim 5, further comprising a first LDAP  
4 compliant bridge for uploading first object type data from each instance of the  
5 first object type to the directory server and a second LDAP compliant bridge  
6 application for uploading second object type data from each instance of the  
7 second object type to the directory server.
- 1 8. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the network  
2 management client includes a CORBA compliant interface to the network  
3 management server.
- 1 9. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the network object is a  
2 person object comprising a phone mail object component and a PBX object  
3 component.
- 1 10. The communication network of claim 1, wherein the network object  
2 comprises a resource object including a first end point address and a second  
3 end point address.
- 1 11. The communication network of claim 10, wherein the first and second  
2 end point addresses reside in different instances of the first object type.
- 1 12. The communication network of claim 10, wherein the first end point  
2 address resides in an instance of the first object type and the second end  
3 point address resides in an instance of the second object type.

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13. A communication network manager, comprising:  
a network management server including a product specific coordinator comprising means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of a first object type via first local configuration means and means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of a second object type via second local means, and further comprising a network coordinator adapted for configuring each instance of a network object comprising a first component associated with the first object type and a second component associated with the second object type; and  
a network management client suitable for enabling a user to invoke the network management server.
14. The network manager of claim 13, wherein the first object type comprises a phone mail object and the first local means comprises a phone mail server process.
15. The network manager of claim 13, wherein the second object type comprises a PBX object and the second local means comprises a PBX server process.
16. The network manager of claim 13, further comprising a CORBA compliant interface between the product specific coordinator and the first local means.
17. The network manager of claim 13, wherein the network coordinator includes means for accessing network object data from a directory server.
18. The network manager of claim 17, wherein the directory server is LDAP compliant.

1 19. The network manager of claim 17, further comprising a first LDAP  
2 compliant bridge for uploading first object type data from each instance of the  
3 first object type to the directory server and a second LDAP compliant bridge  
4 application for uploading second object type data from each instance of the  
5 second object type to the directory server.

1 20. The network manager of claim 13, wherein the network object is a  
2 person object comprising a phone mail object component and a PBX object  
3 component.

1 21. The network manager of claim 13, wherein the network object  
2 comprises a resource object including a first end point address and a second  
3 end point address.

1 22. The network manager of claim 21, wherein the first and second end  
2 point addresses reside in different instances of the first object type.

1 23. The network manager of claim 21, wherein the first end point address  
2 resides in an instance of the first object type and the second end point  
3 address resides in an instance of the second object type.

1 24. A method of managing a communication network, comprising:  
2 identifying the components of a network object in response to a  
3 network configuration request;  
4 invoking a first local configuration application to configure a first  
5 component of the network object; and  
6 invoking a second local configuration application to configure a second  
7 component of the network object.

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1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of identifying the  
2 components comprises accessing object data from an LDAP compliant  
3 directory server.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the configuring of the first component  
2 comprises configuring a PBX object of the communication network.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of configuring the first  
2 component comprises taking an action selected from the group comprising  
3 removing, adding, and changing the first component.

1 28. The method of claim 24, wherein the configuring of the second  
2 component comprises configuring a phone mail object of the communication  
3 network.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of configuring the second  
2 component comprises taking an action selected from the group comprising  
3 removing, adding, and changing the second component.

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